

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please add claim 8 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (previously presented) A process of discharging and transferring upwardly fluidized particles from a dense fluidizing layer forming section to a high-velocity transferring section having a diameter which is smaller than a diameter of the dense fluidizing layer forming section, wherein at least one intermediate cylindrical section is provided between the dense fluidizing layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section, and wherein an average particle size of the fluidized particles is 30 to 90 μm , and a gas superficial speed for fluidization is 0.3 to 1.2 m/s in said dense fluidizing layer forming section and 3 to 30 m/s in said high-velocity transferring section.
2. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein a diameter of said intermediate cylindrical section is 1/3 to 2/3 times the diameter of the dense fluidizing layer forming section.
3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein a height of said intermediate cylindrical section is 1 to 6 times a diameter thereof.
4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate cylindrical section has truncated cone ends connected to said dense fluidizing layer forming section and said high-velocity transferring section, respectively.
5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the truncated cone end directly connected to said dense fluidizing layer forming section has an elevation angle of 40 to 80°.
6. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein only one intermediate cylindrical section is provided.
7. (canceled)
8. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one intermediate cylindrical section has an elevation angle of 85° or greater.